

Nehemiah Strong House
67 Amity Street (on north side of street,
one block west of the main street of the
village)
Amherst
Hampshire County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-650

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MASS-650

NEHEMIAH STRONG HOUSE

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Location: No. 67 Amity Street (On north side of street, one block west of the main street of the village), Amherst, Hampshire County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Amherst Historical Society, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Present Occupant: Amherst Historical Society.

Present Use: Historical museum; one room in Northwest wing occupied by D.A.R.

Brief Statement of Significance: The principal interest of this mid-18th century house is architectural.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Nehemiah Strong. Deeded to Simeon Strong, 1761 /Alice M. Walker, Historic Houses of Amherst/. Purchased by Mrs. Sarah Eliza Emerson in 1853. Occupied by her family until 1916; bequeathed by her daughters, Laura and Felicia, to the Amherst Historical Society in 1916, received October 2 /Certificate in vestibule of Strong House, Amherst/.
2. Date of erection: 1744.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Third floor spaces finished off in the mid-19th century. In 1905, said to be substantially the same as it was when completed, in most respects unchanged on the interior. /Alice M. Walker, Historic Houses of Amherst /.
4. Sources of information: Certificate in vestibule of the Strong House, Amherst, Massachusetts.
Alice M. Walker, Historic Houses of Amherst, (Amherst, Massachusetts: Amherst Historical Society, 1905), pp. 2 ff. Copy in the Boltwood Room of the Jones Library, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
August 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: A mid-18th century house with fine exterior and interior wood detail.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories and finished attic. Main section with two rear wings. Main section about 32' x 35'.
2. Foundations: Very low. Field stone.
3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame, narrow clapboards. End part of kitchen wing has vertical board and batten covering.
4. Porches: Main doorway has porch. Small porch on east end.
5. Chimneys: Brick; central. One in each wing; they appear modern.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Main doorway has porch with two fluted Doric columns, recalled by pilasters, entablature with pulvinated frieze, dentils, pediment. Double door, each leaf 4-panel. Small porch on east end. An entry on West end appears modern.
 - b. Windows and shutters: 6/6 and 12/12 double hung sash. Windows, except second floor front, have cornice with pulvinated frieze, dentils; heavy moulded trim. Window reveals inside have recess for interior shutters, which are not there now.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gambrel. Modern wood shingles. Wings have gable roofs. Upper slope of gambrel covered with sheet metal.
 - b. Roof framing: Sawn heavy rafters (only a small portion of roof framing could be seen).
 - c. Cornice, eaves: Front cornice with modillions.
 - d. Dormers: Two on south front; simple, gabled. One on north.

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C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plan: Central chimney plan, with small entrance vestibule and winding stair. One principal room each side (living room at west, dining room at east). Single room across back (formerly was two rooms). Two-story wing extends to rear at west; one-story wing extends to rear at east. Four rooms on second floor of main section.
2. Stairways: Steep, in three flights. Square newel posts, moulded rail, turned balusters. Simple stairway in west rear wing.
3. Flooring: Very wide boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Interior partitions paneled; some vertical boarded. Southeast bedroom has old horizontal boarding. Principal rooms have paneled wainscoting, furred walls, and window seats. Some walls and ceilings plastered. Some papered.
5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel.
6. Trim: Corner cupboard in dining room. Pilasters alongside mantels; cornices in principal rooms. Heavy framing members cased. Simple moulded trim on doors and windows.
7. Hardware: Some thumb-latches and strap hinges, of wrought iron. Some butts and knobs.
8. Lighting: Partially electrified. No old fixtures.
9. Heating: Fireplaces, originally. Main section unheated.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: On large lot in village, structure faces south on Amity Street.
2. Enclosures: Open.
3. Outbuildings: None.
4. Walks: Gravel path to entrance.
5. Landscaping: Lawn, trees, shrubs. Formal garden on east-- of uncertain date.

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